



MAINE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

49 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330
Telephone: (207) 622-3473 Fax: (207) 626-2968
Website: www.msmaweb.com

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO L.D. 468 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A LATER STARTING TIME FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Senator Langley, Representative Kornfield and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Elaine Tomaszewski, acting deputy executive director of Maine School Management Association and am here to testify on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine Schools Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 468.

School Boards and Superintendents oppose this bill not because we believe a later start time for high school is a bad decision, but because it must be a local one.

It cannot be mandated from Augusta, but has to be discussed and voted on by the local School Board, which has policy making authority in this area. It is a decision that should grow out of a dialogue in the community, involving students, staff, parents and taxpayers.

It would affect family schedules, staff schedules, bus schedules, after-school activities, including sports, and after-school jobs. The research linking later start times to student learning needs to be presented and discussed. Everyone needs to be part of the conversation.

We have examples in this state where that dialogue has occurred and start times have changed. That is how the process is designed to work.

Making it a mandate not only violates board policy rights, it takes away the community's voice. We urge you to reject this proposal.